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Human Services Committee Minutes from Monday February 10th, 2008

In Attendance:

Members:

Walt Meyers Northeast Illinois Area on Aging

Tammy Wierciak Metropolitan Mayors Caucus/Council of Mayors

Jay Ciavarella RTA

Jim Lewis Chicago Community Trust

Lynn O'Shea Association for Individual Development (AID)

Holly Smith Kane County DOT

Lorrie Lynn United Way of Metro Chicago

Jacky Grimshaw CNT

Kristin Williams Illinois Department of Human Services
Katina Cummings Health Policy and Medicine Research Group

Laurie Dittman MOPD, City of Chicago

Guest:

Joan Frankel MCIC

Sheri Cohen Chicago Department of Public Health

Andrew Parker Pace

CMAP Staff:

Russell Pietrowiak

Bob Dean

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

Jon Hallas

CMAP Staff

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1.0 Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves

2.0 Approval of January minutes.

The minutes for the January meeting were approved.

3.0 Comments from the Vice Chair

Holly Smith reported on the program coordinating committee meeting. The program coordinating committee is reviewing the CMAP proposal for the Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) process and criteria.

4.0 Comprehensive Regional Plan

4.1 Aging Snapshot Draft Report

Russell Pietrowiak gave a presentation on the initial findings for the aging snapshoot report. He will email the PowerPoint file to committee members at a later date. It was emphasized that this was a draft presentation and that one of the main goals was to solicit feedback from the committee.

DISCUSSION:

Walt Meyers indicated that the definition of seniors alternates by organizations and service providers, but that 60 years and older may be a better starting point than 65 years or older. He also noted that CMAP may need data on 80+ because it is the "expensive" population in terms of care and services. Especially in terms of growth projections, the 80+ population will grow more than other age cohorts by 2040.

Jim Lewis suggested adding a map with the total number of seniors by census tract. It was noted that CMAP has such data and maps in-house that can be added to the final snapshot. Walt Meyers suggested perhaps adding a map of senior population density by municipality. He also noted that based on conversations with service providers and organizations, the Asian and Hispanic senior populations are increasing at triple the rate of White non-Hispanic seniors. Phil Smith added that this is an important issue because it impacts service delivery. Russell Pietrowiak noted a lack of data on seniors by race or ethnicity.

Sheri Cohen suggested that the differences between Chicago and Cook County suburbs are buried in quantitative data pertaining to Cook County as-a-whole, but are very important. It was suggested that disaggregating that data is not always possible particularly when using non Census 2000 data. Joan Frankel added that consistency in presenting data is laudable, but outlying factors could be noted in the narrative for those unfamiliar with the nuances.

Phil Smith wondered about organizations and agencies serving seniors. He believes that they should have data for our access, especially pertaining to needs. Walt Meyers added that the national aging reporting system tracks changes in service delivery systems.

Phil Smith also suggested adding a bar to a graph in the presentation representing the non-senior disabled population. Walt Meyers suggested adding bars to a graph in the presentation on disability types by categories. Jim Lewis questioned if mobility and safety are the main transportation issues pertaining to seniors with disabilities. He also asked for metadata

in the presentation. Joan Frankel asked whether "mobility" pertained to recreation or work commute? Russell Pietrowiak responded that it pertains to all trips and doesn't include recreational activities such as jogging. Jim Lewis suggested using information from the "some like it hot" survey conducted by MCIC (Joan Frankel).

Walt Meyers suggested considering subsidiary services and perhaps using rates of dementia as an indicator. Tammy Wierciak asked if CMAP can get data on seniors in public transit? Jay Ciavarella responded that eventually, with the new card coming out, RTA will be able to track trips and increases in ridership among seniors.

Jacky Grimshaw asked CMAP to think about roadway design guidelines for the report. Russell Pietrowiak responded that we have them and they will be in the final report.

Jim Lewis suggested adding a table or map illustrating senior educational attainment for the region. Jacky Grimshaw asked how employment and income data gel with the Brookings data. Tammy Wierciak liked the long term planning idea, because it is not necessarily being done.

Russell Pietrowiak asked if the Chicago Community Trust has numbers on where seniors donate? Jim Lewis responded that they do not, but they do have statistics pertaining to their preferences for volunteering and donations.

Walt Meyers noted that the "sandwich generation" and grandparents-raising-grandchildren are on the rise. Russell Pietrowiak responded that this is only an issue of significance for seniors in Cook County. Joan Frankel noted that many seniors may not be custodial caregivers but are providing daycare. Furthermore, there are programs in the region dealing with that issue specifically. Jim Lewis reiterated the issue of growth and change in senior population in the suburbs.

Jacky Grimshaw also suggested bringing up the issue of TOD in respect to housing, because many seniors prefer TOD and CNT has good landuse recommendations on it. Jim Lewis suggested conducting an analysis of age profile in relation to transit stops. Jacky Grimshaw noted that CNT may already have done that analysis.

Walt Meyers noted that this work is good in terms of the aging network and General Assembly mandate to assess communities as livable for all ages, which is to be done over next five years. Finally, Jacky Grimshaw recalled a NIPC report that talked about the number of seniors going to warmer climates, which found that many come back to the region after a short time.

4.2 Jobs Housing Snapshot Report

Lee Deuben presented her research that will drive a CMAP Snapshot Report on the jobs housing balance in the region. Russell Pietrowiak will email the PowerPoint file to committee members.

DISCUSSION: Walt Meyers was concerned that employment subcenters might be decreasing in importance because of increases in telecommuting and working from home. Lee Deuben responded that Dan McMillen, the UIC economist who developed the subcenter methodology, predicts that there will be fewer subcenters in the future, but they will be of much greater size. Jacky Grimshaw suggested that as population grows, employment centers are concentrating around transit access.

Walt Meyers asked if average household size varies tremendously across region. Lee Deuben responded that it does not, but that it does in relation to race/ethnicity. Jim Lewis suggested that it may also vary by neighborhood.

Jacky Grimshaw asked if the median municipal share of affordable housing as a percentage of total stock is 26, why go lower? Lee Deuben responded that the mean is higher but she looked at the problem from a policy perspective, which is to say that IAPA Act mandates that municipalities with less than 10% of their housing stock as affordable must write plans to increase affordable housing. However 10% does not meet the demand of the region, so below 20 % can be considered on-the-edge, between 20-60 % maintainable, 61+% is probably sufficient.

Jim Lewis asked if CMAP can do calculations on the impacts of the mortgage crisis? Lee Deuben responded that CMAP can and will, but that the short term nature of the problem makes dealing with it difficult in the context of a plan with a 30-year horizon.

Walt Meyers suggested that job demands change with an aging population. Tammy Wierciak asked if CMAP has looked at municipal public employees' ability to live in the communities in which they work? Lee Deuben responded that there has been a lot done in terms of research and strategy recommendation on the part of MPC and CNT. She conceded that it is a major problem.

Lim Lewis suggested that CMAP could compare mortgage size to home prices and determine mortgage stressed areas.

4.3 Human Services Definition

Russell Pietrowiak reiterated that the committee has developed a satisfactory definition of human services for its purposes. Jim Lewis congratulated the committee this work. It was suggested that the term community health and growing community capacity be added to the definition. Another suggestion was to add the term "preventive."

- 4.4 JARC/NF (RTA, Ride-in-Kane, etc.) Russell Pietrowiak announced that ride-in-Kane kicks off on Friday, February 13. Lynn O' Shea noted that they are looking for additional sponsors. Russell Pietrowiak reiterated that RTA published an RFP and that they are having a variety of open houses around region.
- 4.5 Other: Strategy Report Prioritizing

Bob Dean passed out a list of suggested topics for strategy research in the human services subject area. He announced that CMAP is looking to the committee to prioritize these for urgency.

Jim Lewis suggested adding childcare availability to the list. Joan Frankel underscored Lewis' point on childcare and expanded it to include schoolage or wraparound care for working parents. She thought that collaboration and a gaps analysis were worthy research topics because there is no mechanism broad enough that incorporates information and understanding of human services needs, production, etc.

Tammy Wierciak suggested adding disability services as a topic of strategy research. Specifically disabled people need to know where service providers are situated. This would be especially helpful for reducing redundancies and planning for service expansion where it is most needed. Joan Frankel reiterated the point about redundancies. Jay Ciavarella suggested that CMAP should take advantage of the RTA human services transportation plan, because it includes lots of strategies pertaining to paratransit. The plan is also the result of a public participation process. He also noted that updating that plan was lower on their priority list, so CMAP could update it over time.

It was also suggested to add a topic to the list related to planning for recreational facilities. Bob Dean asked if a strategy report on parks would not be enough. Jacky Grimshaw suggested that the topic should be broadened to include things that encourage activity. Bob Dean responded that the urban design report would include those sorts of strategies.

Joan Frankel added that community schools ought to be considered,

It was also asked if health facility planning only include hospitals. Bob Dean noted that perhaps CMAP will expand the topic to include all health centers and smaller communities facilities.

Jim Lewis suggested that an education funding analysis should be done in the context of quality of schools and address integration in housing. Bob Dean responded that the point was valid, but that CMAP is not in the position to recommend strategies to improve school quality, but that we can track it with certain indicators. Lewis also suggested framing the issue in terms of income and culture.

Lynn O'Shea added that more focus is being put on alternatives to criminal courts, so access to these is important.

Tammy Wierciak noted that at the last meeting the committee looked at information access and asked if CMAP can conduct a similar inventory of human services information delivery. Bob Dean suggested that this might be a part of research on collaboration.

Jim Lewis asked if human services information and communication -- in terms of connectivity, ease of access, continuum of care—would be addressed in strategy research. Phil Smith also suggested that the issue of health and capacity of human services network should be measured for planning purposes. Jim Lewis noted that there is a growing body of literature on the financial capacity of HS providers.

Tammy Wierciak suggested that education as a topic in and of itself should be addressed. It was also asked if this would include adult education. Jim Lewis suggested that adult education should be its own topic.

Bob Dean summarized the committee's priorities as collaboration, fiscal capacity, education, health facilities and gaps analysis. He noted that the committee was less concerned about paratransit. Jim Lewis added that work on homelessness, integration and childcare are being done. Joan Frankel added that these topics must be inseparable from each other.

Lynn O'Shea noted that homelessness can be reduced to the need for access to health, mental health and drug treatment. Jim Lewis noted that Chicago is doing a regional evaluation of its 10-yr plan on homelessness.

5.0 Next Meeting (March 10th at 10:00am)

Russell Pietrowiak distributed a list of subsequent meeting times and dates at the meeting. He will also distribute these via email.

6.0 Adjournment